

City Hall



City Hall is the headquarters of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. The building was designed by Norman Foster who also designed The Gherkin, the Millennium Bridge and Wembley Stadium!

City Hall cost £65 million to build and was opened in July 2002.

Did you know?

Some people say that the building looks like an onion, an egg and even Darth Vader's helmet!



Nice view!

On the 9th floor of City Hall there is a balcony that is open to the public and gives great views of Tower Bridge, the Tower of London and the Gherkin!



The staircase inside City Hall is 500 metres long!

more fascinating facts and fun from

FANTASTIQUE FRANCE



GOURMET FRANCE

If you spot 'escargot' on the menu at a French restaurant, only order it if you fancy some snails for dinner!

And if snails don't make your tummy rumble, how about a dish of 'cuisses de grenouilles' or Frogs Legs??

Holy Guacamole! Did you know that France is home to over 500 different kinds of cheese?? Wow!!

The French definitely take their food seriously; they have a special seal called an AOC (appellation d'origine contrôlée) which guarantees that certain food and wine has been made in the traditional way.

FABULOUS FRENCH INVENTIONS

Can you imagine life without some of the following items invented in France?

1. Mayonnaise (1756)
2. Bicycle (1790)
3. Guillotine (1792)
4. Braille (1829)
5. Sewing Machine (1830)

5 FAMOUS FRENCH MEN & WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Take some time to find out a little more about these fascinating characters...

1. Joan of Arc, *Patron Saint of France* (1412 - 1431)
2. Claude Monet, *Impressionist Painter* (1840 - 1926)
3. Pierre de Coubertin, *founder of the Modern Olympics* (1863 - 1937)
4. Marie Curie, *first woman to win a nobel prize* (1867 - 1934)
5. Jacques Cousteau, *pioneer of underwater exploration* (1910 - 1997)

DID YOU KNOW?



The French have a vast and well-respected national railroad system. The high-speed trains (TGVs) that operate on these railways are super-speedy, hitting a high speed of 515km per hour.

The 'Chunnel' (the tunnel under the English Channel linking England and France) opened in 1994. It is 50km long!



In 1886 the French gifted the Statue of Liberty to the USA to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Interestingly, Gustave Eiffel (who built the Eiffel Tower) was a chief engineer during the building of the Statue of Liberty.

A HAPPY ADVENTURE
making magic every day

The London Eye



The London Eye is the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom, visited by over 3 million people every year!

The London Eye was opened by Tony Blair (who was the Prime Minister at the time) on December 31st 1999. This is why it is sometimes called the Millennium Wheel. By June 2008, over 30 million people had been on it!

Did you know?

It takes 30 minutes to go all the way round the wheel.

It's wheely expensive!

The cost of going on the London Eye is £15.50 for adults or £7.75 for children.

Get on quick!

The wheel moves so slowly that it doesn't stop to let people on - you have to get on and off while it is still moving!



There are 32 capsules on the wheel, each one holding up to 24 people.





Marie Curie

Did you know that...

Marie Curie was one of the most important researchers of radiation. Since she did so much work with radioactive material, her notes became radioactive - her grand daughter only had them decontaminated a little while ago!

WHAT IS RADIATION?

Everything in the world is made up of atoms, and the atoms come in all shapes and sizes. Some atoms even change from one type to another - those are the ones we call radioactive. When they change, little pieces of the atom called particles, and some energy, break off and fly away - that's called decay.

We measure how radioactive something is by its half-life - that's how long it takes for half of the atoms in the radioactive substance to decay. So after the half-life is over, half of the radioactive substance is left.



NOBEL PRIZES

Marie Curie was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize, and is still the only woman to have won two of them! She is also one of only two people who ever won Nobel prizes in different fields - she won her first one for Physics, and her second one for Chemistry.



X-RAY VANS

When World War I started, Marie Curie wanted to do something to help. She realized that X-Rays, which she had been studying, would help to find shrapnel and bullets in wounded soldiers to make surgery easier. She designed vans that had X-Ray machines in them, so that they could go to the injured soldiers. That way, the soldiers could be X-Rayed without having to be moved.

She also gave X-Ray equipment to hospitals. Back then, the only protection that the doctors could use was a metal screen and cloth gloves. She trained 150 women to use the X-Rays.

RADIATION THERAPY

Radiation therapy is a special type of treatment for people who have cancer. It sends radiation to the areas of the body that are sick, and the radiation kills the cancer cells.

Radiation therapy is possible because of Marie Curie's research on radiation.